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APR 05 2006

In re Application of :
Glenn Joseph Martyn :
Application No. 09/945,501 :
Filed: August 31, 2001 :
Title of Invention: **CAT TREE, LITTER BOX,** :
AND WATERFALL DEVICES :

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the renewed petition filed March 20, 2006, to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, in accordance with the reasoning of the decision in Delgar Inc. v. Schuyler, 172 USPQ 513.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.181 is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.181," or, as explained in more detail below, "...under 37 CFR 1.137(a)" or (b). This is not a final agency decision.

The above-referenced application was held abandoned on April 20, 2004 for failure to timely pay the issue fee in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed February 19, 2004. Accordingly, a Notice of Abandonment was mailed July 6, 2004.

The file record discloses that the Notice of Allowance was mailed to what was believed to be the address of record. However, petitioner contends that it was not received.

A petition filed August 10, 2004 to withdraw the holding of abandonment was dismissed in a decision mailed September 10, 2004 because the evidence presented was insufficient to prove non-receipt of the Notice of Allowance in the instant application.

In a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 the petitioner must show, as in this instance where non-receipt is claimed that petitioner is without fault in not receiving the communication. In the absence of any irregularity in the mailing, there is a strong presumption that the Office action was properly mailed to the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Office action was not in fact received at the address of record. As was indicated in the decision on petition mailed September 10, 2004, the requirement for an argument under 37 CFR 1.181 is that copies of the actual docket

records or file jacket be provided. That requirement has still not been met.

The instant petition reiterates the same argument made in the petition filed August 10, 2004. With the renewed petition petitioners have provided an explanation as to the handling of and docketing of mail but has not submitted copies of the actual docket records or file jacket.

It is understood that petitioner is a *pro se* inventor and that *pro se* applicants may not have as elaborate a docketing system as a law firm. This does not warrant a total waiver of the requirement of a showing that includes copies of docket records or an adequate proxy for such copies. A *pro se* applicant should have some written records evidencing receipt of communications from and mailing of communications to the Office available to provide proof of nonreceipt. It is suggested that *pro se* applicants maintain a log of communications from and to the Office, with dates of receipt, due dates and mailing dates of responses and other papers filed noted. Furthermore, applicants may maintain entries on the file jackets noting these important dates. Absent such evidence, applicants may not be able to overcome the presumption that the correspondence was properly mailed and received at the correspondence address of record and thereafter, misplaced by applicants.

In view thereof, the holding of abandonment cannot be withdrawn.

Petitioner may wish to file a petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b). Section 1.137(b) now provides that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof;
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m) (\$675.00);
- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and
- (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c)).

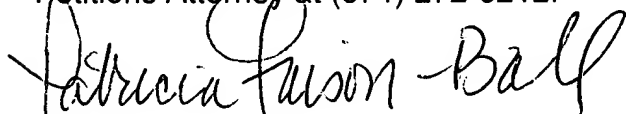
The filing of a petition under the unintentional standard cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore should be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the delay from the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia Faison-Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions